(f) whether contract to print the Sainik Samachar is being given to new printers without concluding the old contract; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (g). Under the previous contract which had expired on 30th April, 1996 the printers of Sainik Samachar were required to submit the paper account alongwith the bills, which was then reconciled by the Sainik Samachar. Since the printers, even whilst having an existing backlog of paper available with them, have not been printing the Sainik Samachar on schedule, resulting in a backlog of unpublished issues, there did not appear to be much point in printing issues which had become obsolete and lost their time value. The old contract has been duly concluded on its expiry.

Serious Diseases

3318. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people suffering from cancer, heart ailment, T.B., goitre, diabetes, mental disorder and other serious diseases separately;

(b) the total number of handicapped people in the country; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) On the basis of various survey and studies conducted, it is estimated that about 6.7 lakhs new cases of cancer occur every year. There are about 40 million cases of Cardiovascular diseases, there are about 14 million people suffering from active T.B., nearly 167 million people are considered to be at risk of developing iodine deficiency disorders of whom about 54 million have goitre, there are about 16 million diabetes mellitus patients and about 9.2 million cases of mental disorder in the country.

(b) It is estimated that there would be about 16.2 million disabled persons in the country.

(c) The Govt. of India have initiated Health Programmes for control of cancer, T.B., iodine deficiency disorders and mental disorders.

Training for Inland Navigators

3319. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of existing training centres and facilities being provided for training personnel engaged in inland navigation;

(b) whether there is any Central Training Institute for advanced level training of senior managerial as well as supervisory personnel engaged in inland navigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Training centres for imparting training to crew of inland vessels exist at (i) Chandbali (Orissa) (ii) Goa, and (iii) Guwahati. These institutes are managed by the respective State Govts. using their own resources and competency certificates are issued to trained personnel in selected categories.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance to States for Education

3320. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided financial assistance to the States for primary, secondary and university education during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the financial assistance being provided in the said field to the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The Central Government provides financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for implementing various Centrally Sponsored NPE (National Policy on Education) Schemes such as Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education, Teacher Education, Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, Science Education etc. The State-wise details of the financial assistance provided to the States/Union Territories for primary and secondary education during 1996-97 are given at Statement. Information in respect of University Sector is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The Government is committed to increase allocation on Education. The goal has been to set apart 6% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for education by the last year of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-02. With increased allocation for education, the funds available with the States/UTs for Education will also increase.